

D. Remarks

The claims are 1-6 and 8-10, with claims 1 and 8 being independent. Claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The specification has been amended to correct an obvious error; since the DMA is not shown in Figure 3, the specification has been amended to remove an erroneous reference numeral and to make clear that the DMA is not shown. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to clarify the invention; in particular, the claims have been amended to specify that the input means has a plurality of rasters and that the size of the raster data stored in the print buffer is smaller than the size of the data to be printed by one scanning. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the application as filed (see, e.g., pages 25 and 34, Figure 3); accordingly, no new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the disclosure, i.e., the specification and Figure 3, because reference is made to “DMA” with a reference number of 107 at page 17, line 1, yet no such reference number appears in Figure 3. In response to this objection, Applicants have amended the specification at pages 16-17 in order to specify that the DMA is not shown since it is not essential for a proper understanding of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request removal of the objection to the disclosure.

Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Watanabe (U.S. Patent No. 5,689,289). Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Iwasaki ‘403 (U.S. Patent No. 6,328,403). Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Iwasaki ‘403 and further in view of Clark (U.S. Patent No. 7,265,856). Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as

being allegedly unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Iwasaki '403 and Clark and further in view of Iwasaki '961 (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0175961). Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Clark and Iwasaki '403. Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Iwasaki '403 in view of Watanabe. Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Iwasaki '403 in view of Watanabe and further in view of Clark. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The present invention is directed to a printing apparatus which divides a printing area in a scanning direction on a printing medium into a plurality of regions and has a print buffer for storing raster data corresponding to the divided regions, the size of the raster data stored in the print buffer being smaller than a size of image data to be printed by one scanning. The apparatus comprises input means having a plurality of rasters, acquisition means, conversion means, transfer means, second transfer means, storage means and control means. The present invention is also directed to printer driver executable in a host computer which outputs printing data to a printing apparatus such as the one presently claimed.

Importantly and as now claimed, the printing apparatus (a) divides a printing area in a scanning direction on a printing medium into a plurality of regions and has a print buffer for storing raster data corresponding to the divided regions, (b) the size of the raster data stored in the print buffer is smaller than the size of image data to be printed by one scanning and (c) the input means has a plurality of rasters. Simply put, none of the cited references discloses or suggests any of the claimed key features. Accordingly, the present invention is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the combination of references

cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §102 and §103 rejections.

In view of the foregoing remarks, favorable reconsideration and passage to issue is earnestly requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to reissue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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